



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWO PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES**

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 55-year-old Van Zandt man and a 27-year-old Dallas woman have pleaded guilty to federal charges related to a drug bust earlier this year in the Eastern District of Texas. **RONALD GREG NULL** and **RENELL GRACE PAYNE** each pleaded guilty to separate counts of using a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony today before United States Magistrate Judge John Love.

According to information presented in court, on February 11, 2006, a search warrant was executed at the Van Zandt County residence of Julie Darlene Null as a result of a DPS Narcotics investigation into methamphetamine distribution. Several individuals, along with approximately 118 grams of methamphetamine and over \$30,000 cash, were present during the execution of the search warrant. On May 2, 2006, a 9-count indictment was returned by a federal grand jury charging nine defendants with various crimes, including conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, use of a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

Null and Payne each face up to four years in federal prison and a fine

of up to \$250,000.00 at sentencing. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mary Ann Cozby.

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